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Thursday, November 23, 1905

TAKE AWAY THE EXACTIONS.

President Smith, commercialism is ruinous when practiced by a church—ruinous to the church and ruinous to the State. If you had read the history of peoples you would know that neither the welfare of a religious organization, nor the welfare of the commonwealth can be attained through a church ownership or manipulation of properties for gain. Mankind has been compelled to disestablish ownership and monopoly by religious bodies in order to secure opportunity, justice, peace and prosperity for the mass of men. There are ample avenues within the needs of your own people for the dissemination of unjustly accrued wealth; and they will be a nobler and more important people in the world within the span of your probably long life if you will now take from their toil the heavy hand of your exactions.

Having in mind next summer's water needs, Utah people are now ready to enjoy unpleasant weather.

Of course, a portion of the money secured for defraying the expenses of the Democratic banquet will be spent for food.

McCurdy having given up half of his salary, the directors of the Mutual Life should do as well by cutting off the other half.

Tammany undoubtedly regrets now that it was so extremely reasonable as to count McClellan in, by only a small plurality.

Judging from his remarks at El Paso, Dentist Conger wished to treat the Parowan girl right by making her his plural wife.

Senator Smoot feels that the United States Senate should be above taking notice of so unimportant a thing as a city election.

Does the city administration realize that it has only a little over a month now to distribute the remainder of the million-dollar fund?

Owners of smokestacks might be frightened by the order to enforce the smoke ordinance, if they had not heard of such orders before.

Brother Conger, in order to take a plural wife in Mexico in the proper manner, should have consulted some good, experienced church official.

When the time comes for distributing the patronage of the new city administration, it will be surprising to find how few men voted for Morris or Lynch.

American Fork church authorities will learn that no saloon man can be unchristianlike who buys his liquor from Brother Smoot, and pays for it.

Chief Lynch will take pleasure in complying with the order to abate the smoke nuisance, provided he is given about two years in which to do it.

Senator Platt would have sent those campaign contributions of the insurance companies right back, but for an unwillingness to be thought impolite.

Elder W. H. King may still think that there is no church interference in politics, but he cannot prove it by Judge King at the coming Democratic feast.

New York Republican leaders admit that the taking of insurance contribu-

tions for campaign purposes was wrong, and they are sorry it must be stopped.

HIERARCHS FALLEN OUT.

The tantrum of the brethren is not yet over.

A cold shower bath for the apostolic editor and some ice packs at the base of the brain for some of his former familiars, but present antagonists, would be a good thing to reduce them to order.

The fact is they all lied about each other before the election, as both sides testified; and one of them continues to lie about the other, as the Deseret News testifies—and as the News utters the testimony, editorially, against its assailant, this may be taken also as proof that both sides are continuing to falsify.

It is a mess. Both the Republican and Democratic politicians of the church used church influence; both sides warring and quarrelling out their case for days and weeks preceding the election in the presence of the hierarchy; each side claiming to be in the lead of the other and therefore each side claiming the church help in order to defeat the American party. The chief could not gather the fragments of his mind from nebulous space and could not determine absolutely which side was the stronger until the morning preceding election, when he yielded to the blandishment of the Smoot crowd, and guessed it wrong. He stayed wrong until noon of election day. In the meantime, indignant Democrats had applied a countervailing force of church influence through the Deseret News and so far outstripped the Republicans in activity, that on Tuesday at eleven o'clock Morris's superior strength over Lynch had become apparent. Thereupon a hurried ecclesiastical consultation was held and even the Republicans within the hierarchy agreed that the revelation in favor of Lynch would not be voted affirmatively by the people and therefore was no revelation at all. In fact it was the wrong hunch. The jig was up. The throne of grace must be supplanted for a change of programme. The word came in the midst of a premonition of acrimony among the hierarchs. While they were all agreed that Mr. Lynch was the victim of misplaced confidence and that the only safety was in dumping the entire movable vote of the church over into the Morris camp, some of them felt that the word of the Lord had been bannounced by the Deseret News, and they began to draw their metaphorical knives from their metaphorical boots.

The cutting and slashing has gone on ever since. Once in a while a cry from one of the wounded has shown to the public that some one has drawn blood. The agonized shriek of the Deseret News, in its editorial—occupying two columns of its recital—demonstrates that it is hurt fearfully, if not fatally.

Every one of the hierarchy now in Utah has been condemned by some element of his own people for having ruined the chances of either the Republican or the Democratic party to carry Salt Lake, and the general verdict is that while they lacked neither intention nor intensity they were a feeble lot of politicians without the foresight and sense of proportion necessary for the successful execution of their improper purpose. It was long ago foretold that insincerity on their part would spread general demoralization in the church. That demoralization has come. En masse the Mormon people wish that Smoot was holding down a conference in some far-off country and that their leaders were out of politics; and, with the exception of Smoot himself, all the members of the hierarchy regret that they ever allowed him to obtrude his personal ambitions into the public affairs of this State and of the Nation.

Even at the risk of driving all the hierarchs together into a bond of evil political union, The Tribune congratulates the commonwealth and the country that the autocrats of the church and their trusted henchmen are at a deadly quarrel in politics. They cannot hold together. Their people are losing confidence in the word of God as delivered by their prophet. He cannot guess it right one time in ten, and that shows that he is not a true prophet; to paraphrase the illustration used by Heber C. Kimball many years ago. The Tribune does not enjoy strife. It prefers peace—and it is to gain peace that The Tribune is making war. But it believes that the fight among the leaders of the church is a public benefit.

When the hierarchs fall out the people come to their own.

THE DEFECTIVE LAWS.

It is surely a shame that the complaint has to be made, which is frequently heard, that the laws and ordinances are so defective here that confidence man, bunko operators, swindling street grafters and the like, cannot be punished. If the fault lies in the laws, it seems as though that should have been noted and corrected long ago. If it is in lack of energy in prosecuting, as the police are fain to believe, the corrective should at once be applied. If it is a lack in the ordinances, no long time should be required to meet the case, and pass such correctives as are needed.

The claim is openly made, that the disreputable class mentioned finds this city congenial; that the conditions here, by reason of the lack of stringent laws or stringent prosecution, leave the misdoers and criminals much too clear a field. This is a bad condition for the city. It must be broken up, and better conditions substituted. Whatever

THE ACTIVITY OF DEMAND FOR SALT LAKE REALTY.

The purchase of the vacant corner on Third South and West Temple streets, west of the Metropolitan Hotel, is a conspicuous evidence of the active and strong demand that has newly arisen for real estate in this city.

The price paid—Fifty Thousand Dollars for one hundred and sixty-five feet on Third South street by one hundred and fifteen and one-half feet on West Temple street—shows that the price cuts no great figure if only the property is such as the purchaser wants. The fact that the buyer is local and not an "outside" buyer is perfect evidence that Salt Laker do not allow strangers to outdo them in their enthusiastic faith in the progress of the city, and the certainty of its greatness to come.

And this purchase is not merely a purchase of a large and desirable corner. It carries with it the plan for a modern and large business block, for which the site is a commodious and admirable one.

This purchase, and others that have been noted recently, with negotiations afoot for yet other equally important purchases, tell the story of Salt Lake's present commanding importance, and also of the certainty that this importance will increase as the years go by, and the city is more and more cut loose from ecclesiastical thralldom. It must be apparent to every one, from the magnificent uprising of enthusiastic approval from all classes throughout the United States, East, West, North, South, which has rent the sky in acclaim, that this revival of interest in Salt Lake is the result of the American victory on the seventh of November.

That this approval comes from all classes, and is especially shared by business men and capitalists, is evident from the considerable sums involved in the transactions and in the contemplated improvements. And this interest of men of energy and money is what will make Salt Lake one of the great cities of the United States.

is lacking toward effecting this reform, must at once be supplied. The city cannot afford, nor will it consent, to allow the offending classes mentioned to flourish and increase here. Let the reform be prompt and thorough, and this will be approved by all good citizens.

THE LATEST IN LIFE.

The latest developments of the Life Insurance investigation make more certain than ever two main propositions:

First, that the life insurance companies require much larger payments than is necessary from those for whom they write insurance policies. This is manifest in the enormous and unwieldy sums accumulated beyond the needs or possible legitimate uses of the companies to protect the stockholders. That this accumulation is greater than can be legitimately used is proved by the excessive salaries paid to the officers of the companies and their families; by the organization of subsidiary companies to handle the surpluses, these companies also swarmingly provided with officials at further great salaries; by the large contributions of the companies for political purposes; and by the final fact that all these squanderings, some of them unlawful and grossly unfair, and amounting to vast fortunes in many separate aggregates, have not in the least impaired the soundness of the companies nor the perfect security of the policies. This latter fact is undisputed, and it is the saving grace of the whole situation, bad as the investigation has shown it to be in certain respects. But the very fact that this is so, indisputably demonstrates the fact that more money than was necessary has been collected from the policy holders; otherwise the squandered money would not have been on hand to squander.

The second main fact is that the insurance companies need to be protected from the weakness of their very human officers, so that it will be impossible for them to give away the funds entrusted to their care, to politicians or any other persons attempting raids upon them by duress or otherwise. Also, that there is need of legislation to prevent speculation by the use of these funds, and their manipulation by "high financiers" in their industrial and transportation combines.

There is no doubt that this shaking up will be beneficial to the life insurance companies. It will show to the great officials of these companies that if they depart from sound principles, as so many of them have been doing, and are unfaithful servants, their sins will find them out and retribution will follow. The result will be three-fold: these officials will do better than heretofore, will new more closely to the line of their duty; there will be legislation preventing wrong-doing and misuse or waste of the funds; and there will be a readjustment of charges, so that those who in the future take out policies will not have to pay so much for them.

Life insurance is one of the mighty agencies for good, that has taken firmer and broader root in America than in any other part of the world. It is truly eleemosynary, as one of the officials of a great company expressed it, though too many have gulped the benefits into unexpected and startling channels. And the judgment of Mr. Gage E. Tarbell, who testified on Tuesday last, must be the judgment of mankind, when he said:

Right in this country alone the amount that has been paid to policy-holders has gone beyond \$250,000,000, and the amount held by American companies is beyond \$2,500,000,000. There is no country on earth that has done anything to compare with it, and the benefit to this country as a nation is permanent. The good that has been done by life insurance companies in very many ways, by the diminishing of pauperism and by giving more boys a good education, is something that is deserving of a great deal of thought and, generally speaking, I think life insurance in America has been very well managed. I do not mean to make any apologies for the mistakes that have been made.

It is something to have a man of his eminence in the insurance world admit that mistakes have been made; and he rightly conceives that it would not be worth his while to make any apologies for them. No apology, in fact, can be made, and it is too mild to call the misappropriations of funds, the exorbitant salaries, the speculations, merely "mistakes"; they are not a whit short of moral crimes, whether they are so by law or not.

tribute to the vitality of the essence of the business itself. With proper purging, remedial legislation and faithful oversight, the business of life insurance will presently be on a firmer and more extended basis than ever before.

GREATER THAN IT SEEMS.

That the victory of the American party in this city on the seventh instant was not appreciated at its full value, at first, either at home or abroad, time is demonstrating. We submit a recent note received from the East in proof, as follows:

St. Paul, Minn., Nov. 15, 1905.
Editor Tribune—We of the East did not realize at first that the American party had gained so much in the recent Salt Lake City election. It was a glorious victory. Sleep with one eye open if you would hold what you have won. Eternal vigilance will be the price you will pay for permanent possession. Never cease your battle that Americanism may prevail in Utah and throughout the Western States. Sincerely yours,
ROSE GLENN WEBSTER.

The advice is good. The officials elected will need to act with circumspection and care. And all Americans in Utah must be faithful, liberal-minded, zealous, and active. The officers-elect must be supported loyally, and their hands held up so that they may do their perfect work. When they ask advice, that advice must be given on conscience, and from the heart.

The far-reaching benefits of the glorious victory will more fully appear as time rolls on. In the meantime, these results materialize in a more exalted hope and expectation, in a wider interest than ever in this city among the people of the United States, in improved business, in an awakened real estate market and in a respect and high standing for the city that had long been lost.

The victory was greater than can even now be appreciated. But it will not do to rest upon it. We must all gird our loins for more important victories yet to be achieved, in the redemption of the county and the State from ecclesiastical thralldom.

A DEAD BOSS.

A certain Apostle, seeing the pelf and power gained by Political Bosses, wanted to be one. Calling his pretended friends around him, he puffed and swelled and then asked them: "Now am I one?" Some of them, growing alarmed and not desiring to be spattered, cried out: "Beware, heed, lest you burst. You are not one yet." Whereupon, the arrogant Apostle puffed and swelled to his utmost and just as he was again crying out: "Now am I one?" a buzzing bee alighted upon him and pricking him sharply with its little stinger, the Apostle really did burst and his scattered remains were plastered over the political field from Salt Lake to Provo.

Moral: An Apostle who aspires to be another Mathew Stanley Quay sometimes gets his wish, for Quay is a Dead One.

STOP IT NOW.

President Smith's intimate and authorized friends have stated that he has made a pronounced inhibition of the solemnization of plural marriages.

President Smith, why not make this instruction broader and enforce it? Why not put an end to all polygamous relations (without deserting wives and children) and provide some plan within the church whereby those mistaken women who have been dragged into polygamy since 1890, and those innocent children who have come into the world through that relation since 1890, shall have what comfort—poor though it may be—the church can extend to them in future time?

Why allow the difficulties and the wrongs to be multiplied, as they are being multiplied, by a continuation of the present unsettled condition on this subject within your own church?

You know that the women and children who have entered into and come from plural marriage since the dates mentioned are now without a standing, even in the church. Have you no sense of humanity which will prompt you to stop the progress of the injustice, and provide such remedy as may be possible for that which already exists?

When you order the solemnization of plural marriages to be suspended, and when your order is obeyed, is not the world justified in claiming that the offense has all the time been under your control?

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